

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00651 160552 Z

13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/081 W

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R 160500 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5313

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0651

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, MA, OAU, (PORTOS, AUGUSTIN AMPY)

SUBJ: OAU TENTH ANNIVERSARY - WHO'S COMING

REFS: TANANARIVE 0573; ADDIS ABABA 4504

1. TEN- MAN MALAGASY DELEGATION, HEADED BY AUGUSTIN AMPY PORTOS, DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL RELATIONS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, DEPARTED EVENING MAY 14 FOR OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. MAY 15 ISSUE OF GOVT- CONTROLLED DAILY PRESS BULLETIN ANNOUNCED FURTHER DEPARTURES FOR MAY 17, BUT INDICATED THAT IT IS STILL UNKNOWN WHO WILL HEAD MALAGASY DELEGATION TO OAU CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING. CHANCES ARE STILL THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA WILL REPRESENT HEAD OF GOVT RAMANANTSOA.

2. PORTOS REPRESENTED FOREIGN MINISTER AT RECENT OCAM CONFERENCE IN MAURITIUS. EMBASSY ENJOYS FREQUENT AND FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH THIS CONSCIENTIOUS HIGH- LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. HE SELDOM EXPRESSES PERSONAL OPINION, IS NOTABLY MORE CLOSEMOUTHED THAN HIS COUNTERPART IN DIRECTORATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CANNOT BE EXPECTED REVEAL INFORMATION ON OAU PROCEEDINGS OR MALAGASY POSITIONS. HE HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO US IN PUSHING MALAGASY SIGNATURE AND/ OR RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS THROUGH MORASS OF BUREAUCRACY. PORTOS IS ONE OF VERY FEW " COTIER " (MORE
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AFRICAN THAN MALAYO- POLYNESIAN BACKGROUND) SENIOR OFFICIALS
IN PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND IN PART PROBABLY OWES HIS POSITION
BOTH IN GOVT AND AS HEAD OF DELEGATIONS AT TWO IMPORTANT
AFRICAN MEETINGS TO RACE. ON WHOLE, WE BELIEVE HE MORE
DEDICATED AND COMPETENT CIVIL SERVANT THAN POLICY INFLUENCER.
SPEAKS FRENCH.
MENDENHALL

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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